

communications having independent data rates between a base station and a subscriber unit,  
the system comprising:

5           at least one base station comprising:

          first means for processing a first communication for transmitting to said at least  
one subscriber unit including first means for determining the data rate required to support  
said first communication; and

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10           first transmission means for transmitting communications at one of said  
plurality of data rates having data rate selection means responsive to said first determining  
means;

          and at least one subscriber unit comprising:

means for establishing a communication channel having a capacity of a first  
data communication rate;

15           means for communicating at a second data communication rate, wherein said  
first data communication rate is higher than said second data communication rate;

          second means for processing a second communication for transmitting to said  
base station including second means for determining the data rate required to support said  
communication; [and]